

Valuable Information.

CAMERON COUNTY:

Cameron County is the extreme southern county of Texas. It is separated from Mexico by the Rio Grande on the south and has about 100 miles of gulf coast as its eastern boundary. It was organized in 1848, and contains 9308 square miles. Farming and stock raising are the principal industries of the people, the location, climate and soil being admirably adapted for both. The greater portion of the soil is a rich loam, and produces an exceedingly heavy yield of both cotton and corn, the chief farm products. Two, and sometimes three crops of corn, averaging from fifty to seventy bushels per acre, are raised yearly, while cotton will easily yield from one to two bales per acre. Grasses grow all the year, and stock find pasturage without being fed or sheltered during the winter. But the soil and climate of the Lower Rio Grande Valley are by nature best adapted for the production of vegetables and fruits. Vegetables of all kinds grow all the year around, and northern people are astonished to find tomatoes, lettuce, spinach, English peas, etc., served fresh from the gardens in midwinter. This is undoubtedly the paradise of truck gardeners, and so soon as rail transportation is obtained Cameron county vegetables by the car load will be shipped to northern markets during winter, and early spring, and will obtain the highest prices, as there will be no competition. This is due to our exceedingly mild climate. Frequently the entire winter passes without a single frost, and there is rarely ever any cold weather before Christmas. Fruit culture has not been attempted in this county on a large scale, but there is one large banana plantation on which this delicious fruit yields most abundantly and in the greatest perfection. Grapes are also raised extensively, growing in almost every yard. They ripen from two to four weeks earlier than in any other section. Many planters here make all of their own table wines. Oranges and lemons also grow in profusion, and this section could easily be made to rival Florida in the production of oranges. Sugar cane is also one of the most important products of this valley. The Rio Grande plantation of Mr. Geo. Briley and the Babbs-Stark plantation produce great quantities of cane, which is all manufactured on the Rio Grande plantation. This cane makes sugar which is pronounced by experts to be even superior to the best Louisiana product. Havana tobacco has also proven a success here, Col. J. G. Tucker having made some most successful experiments with it; his samples were classed by New York experts as equal to the best Havana.

The county is watered by the Rio Grande with its ample flow along the southern boundary, and numerous small streams called "arroyos" and "resacas."

The population of Cameron county, according to the census of 1890, is 13,424. Brownsville, the county seat, has a population of about 7000. Point Isabel, the seaport of the county, has about 400 inhabitants, and Santa Maria, a growing little river settlement, has about 250.

Improved lands sell for from \$5 to \$25 per acre, unimproved for from \$2 to \$6 per acre. The average taxable value of land is \$1. There are 22,240 acres of school land in the county. The county has a total school population of 3271, and gives employment to 100 teachers. The average length of the school term is five months. The total tuition revenue received from the State is \$13,000. There are a number of public schools in the county, affording ample educational advantages.

Home-seekers are gradually beginning to find their way to this land where farmers can work the open air 365 days in the year, but it is comparatively undeveloped as yet. With the building of a railroad to Corpus Christi, however, great influx of settlers may be expected, and they will be heartily welcomed. This valley is capable of supporting millions of people, and will be pleased to furnish them with food and shelter. For more information regarding the Rio Grande Valley, apply to the undersigned.

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BROWNSVILLE.

Brownsville, the county seat of Cameron county, is situated in the southern part of the county on the Rio Grande, about thirty miles above its mouth, and directly opposite the Mexican city of Matamoros. It has a large trade with small towns along the river for over 300 miles, the extent of steamboat navigation. It has commercial relations with the gulf ports by the port of Brazos de Santiago, with which it is connected by the Rio Grande railroad. It also has communication with the interior by stage to Alice, connecting with the Texas Mexican and the Aransas Pass Railway. Another frequent mode of transportation is from Brownsville via the Matamoros and Monterey railroad to Rio Grande City, and thence by stage to Pena Station. Brownsville is laid off squarely with streets of good width, and is built up with solid brick buildings, and has a fine city market, where all vegetables, meats, fresh fish, game, etc., are on sale at remarkably low prices. The city fire department is well equipped and most effective. There are three churches, Catholic, Episcopal and Presbyterian. The educational advantages of Brownsville are unsurpassed by any town, and unequalled by few of its size. The public school building, valued at \$30,000, is one of the handsomest and best equipped in the State, and stands as a monument to the progress of the city. It employs fourteen teachers, and about six hundred pupils are in daily attendance. There are three Catholic schools, St. Joseph's College for boys, the convent school for girls, and St. Aloysius' school for boys, both of the latter being taught by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word convent. Another school for girls is the Presbyterian mission school. Among other public buildings may be mentioned the court house, a large and costly building which is a credit to the county, and the custom house, which is one of the handsomest federal buildings in the south. The postoffice in this building is very handsomely equipped. There are also many handsome private residences.

The population numbers about 7000, about three-fourths Mexican. It is one of the prettiest little towns in the State, and on account of its mild and equable climate is destined to become a popular resort, especially in the winter season.

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